

## ITALIAN MARRIAGES.

## THE TIME WHEN PRIESTS RAN MATRIMONIAL AGENCIES.

National Review.

In the fifteenth century, as soon as an Italian girl had attained her twelfth year she was considered legally marriageable. The sumptuary laws of Genoa and Venice permitted her to wear gold and silver brocade, rich velvets and silks, and to cover her person with jewels, the better to attract the attention of such young gentlemen as were admitted to her society. On her twelfth birthday being magnificently arrayed, she was led to the parish church on foot under a canopy of white and crimson silk by her parents who, as may well be imagined, wore on so solemn an occasion their richest attires. A band of music marched in front, playing a lively tune, and all the neighborhood turned out to see the sposina, who, after mass, on her return to her family palace held a reception, in which with a good deal of adroitness eligible young gentlemen were paraded before her mother and herself. If she chanced to take the fancy of one of these youths, it was etiquette for him to pass for a week or so at a determined hour every day in front of her house, so that she could take a sly glance at him through the lattice, and even drop him a flower if she felt so inclined and receive in return a sonnet. As the courtship progressed, the young gentleman was allowed to serenade the girl, generally very late at night. He did not always sing himself, which was, perhaps providential, but appeared with a band of hired musicians and singers, and if he was rich and liberal he selected the best professional artists he could procure, to make an enduring impression on the sposina.

About a week previous to the wedding the bride's parents gave a grand reception (reception) to all their friends to introduce the sposo and the members of his family. This entertainment usually ended with a grand banquet, preceded by the signing of the legal documents connected with the wedding, of which, fortunately, thousands still exist. The dowries of the Venetian, Genoese, and Florentine ladies were nothing like as large as those of the Roman. Indeed, the sumptuary laws of the three great republics limited the dowries of brides to a sum never exceeding \$4,000. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the priests interfered a great deal in matchmaking; and in the archives of Genoa we find a great many instances of priests being sued for obtaining an undue percentage on the dowries of brides, and also indications that some of these worthies kept a sort of matrimonial agency.

## MELTED THE GRIMY ENGINEER

Little Golden-Hair's Gratitude for Bringing Papa and Mamma Home Safe.

Oakland (Cal.) Enquirer.

Even in the life of the grimy railroad engineer, whose existence is one of almost constant danger, there sometimes falls a spark of light and a ray of human sunshine illuminates his smoky cab, penetrates his greasy blouse and finds its way deep down into his breast.

A little incident happened down at the mole the other evening after the arrival of the overland train, which, though of a simple nature, will long be remembered by a certain C. P. engineer. The great iron monster attached to the train was throbbing and puffing after the long and sinuous trip over mountain sides and rock defiles, trembling trestles and marshy stretches. The din in the depot was deafening, but out of the chaos of sounds a sweet, girlish voice was heard welcoming home her parents, who had arrived on the train. She was a little golden-haired beauty, scarcely 6 years of age, with a quick, intelligent eye and a loving nature, to which she gave full vent in the radiant and impulsive way she welcomed her fond parents back. At last they took her by the hand and proceeded toward the waiting ferry-boat. As they passed by the engine belonging to the train the little one broke away, ran up to the big black machine, and patted the driving-wheels affectionately with her little white hands. Looking up at the smokestack, she said: "You good, big old iron horse, you have brought back my papa and mamma safe over the fearful mountains to their little girl, and I want to thank you, even if you don't care for me because I am so little; and you, too," she continued, turning her face wistfully toward the grimy engineer, who was leaning out of the cab window, "I love you both." Then she kissed her hand to him and was gone like a ray of sunshine.

Just then a fleeting sunbeam from the great orb sinking down into the Golden Gate came stealing through a chink in the depot and stole by the engineer into his cab. There was a strange look on his face for an instant, and all at once the depot was dark and lonesome. When he turned his head into the cab there were two light spots on the cheeks of his dust-begrimed face.

## The Beggars of Europe.

New York Letter.

"Ever since I was abroad," said a well-known New Yorker, "I have been pestered with all sorts of begging letters. They are mostly from the managers of English charitable institutions of various descriptions, though some are from private individuals. The former inclose a variety of printed matter illustrating the purposes and work of the institution; the latter are abject appeals of apparently professional begging letter writers, with whom London abounds. I was talking with a friend about it, and he said he had had the same experience for about two years after he had built a fine house here, a description of which and his wealth got into the local papers. He was deluged with begging letters from almost every capital in Europe, and especially from London."

## You Are In a Bad Fix.

But we will cure you if you will pay us. Men weak, nervous, and debilitated, suffering from evil habits or later indiscretions, send for BOOK OF LIFE, Dr. Parker's Medical and Surgical Institute, 153 N. Spruce street, Nashville, Tenn.

## Special

For the holidays only, an assorted case of Dry and Sweet Wines for \$4. Packed for shipment without extra charge.

To-KALON WINE CO., 614 14th street.

Buy Gill's Candies, 11th and F.

## EVERY FAMILY

Should be provided with Ayer's Pills. No other aperient is in such general demand or so highly recommended by the profession. Mild but thorough in operation, these pills are the best of all remedies for constipation, biliousness, heartburn, indigestion, flatulency, loss of appetite, liver complaint, and sick headache. They break up colds, fevers, and malaria, relieve rheumatism and neuralgia, and are indispensable to travelers, either by land or sea. **Needs** the purest vegetable cathartics, they may be taken with impunity by old and young. Physicians recommend these pills in preference to any other. H. W. Hersh, Judsonia, Ark., says: "In 1853, by the advice of a friend, I began the use of Ayer's Pills as a remedy for biliousness, constipation, high fevers, and colds. They served me better than anything I had previously tried, and I have used them in attacks of that sort ever since."

## Ayer's Cathartic Pills

Every Dose Effective.

Advice to the Aged. Age brings infirmities, such as sluggish bowels, weak kidneys and bladder and torpid liver.

## Tutt's Pills

have a specific effect on these organs, stimulating the bowels, giving natural discharges without straining or griping, and

IMPARTING VIGOR to the kidneys, bladder and liver. They are adapted to old or young.

SOLD EVERYWHERE.



## JAPANESE PILE CURE

A guaranteed Cure for Piles of whatever kind or degree—External, Internal, Blind or Bleeding, Itching, Chronic, Recent or Hereditary. \$1.00 a box; 6 boxes, \$5.00. Sent by mail, prepaid, on receipt of price. We guarantee to cure any case of Piles. Guaranteed and sold only by C. CHRISTIANI, Druggist, 484 Pennsylvania Ave., south side. Samples free. ja18-1y

## BE A MAN

APOLLO WAS A PERFECT MAN. PERFECT IN FORM!—MATCHLESS IN WAR!

Se anxious were the ancients for stalwart men that puny boys at birth were put to death. Every MAN can be STRONG and VIGOROUS in all respects. YOUNG MEN OR OLD, suffering from NERVOUS DEBILITY, Loss of Power, Mental Weakness, Physical Excesses, Mental Worry, Stunted Development, or any PERSONAL WEAKNESS, can be restored to PERFECT HEALTH and the NOBLE VITALITY of STRONG MEN, the Pride and Power of Nations. We claim by years of practice by our exclusive methods a uniform "MONOPOLY OF SUCCESS" in treating all Diseases, Weaknesses and Afflictions of Men. Testimonials from 50 States and Territories. **OUR NEW BOOK** paid, for a limited time. Get it while you can. Full Explanations for HOME TREATMENT. You can be FULLY RESTORED as Thousands have been by us. Read our testimonials. Address at once ERIC MEDICAL CO. BUFFALO, N.Y.

## DR. E. C. WEST'S NERVE AND BRAIN TREATMENT.

Specific for Hysteria, Dizziness, Fits, Neuralgia, Wakefulness, Mental Depression, Softening of the Brain, resulting in insanity and leading to misery, decay, and death; Premature Old Age, Barrenness, Loss of Power in either sex, Involuntary Losses, and Spermatorrhoea caused by over-exertion of the brain, self-abuse, or over-indulgence. Each box contains one month's treatment. \$1 a box, or six boxes for \$5, sent by mail prepaid. With each order for six boxes will send purchaser guarantee to refund money if the treatment fails to cure. Guarantees issued and genuine sold only by STANDFORD'S ST. CLOUD PHARMACY, 939 F st. nw and 10th and E sts. nw, Washington, D. C. ja18-1y

## I CURE FITS!

When I say cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY, or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed in no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office.

H. G. ROOT, M.D., 183 Pearl St., N.Y.

## ROOT'S PURGATIVE PILLS cure Blood Diseases, Constipation and Biliousness.

DEPOT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, Washington, D. C., December 2, 1891.—Sealed proposals in triplicate, subject to usual conditions, will be received here until 11 o'clock a. m., SATURDAY, January 2, 1892, and then opened, for furnishing during the five months commencing February 1, 1892, such forage, straw, and bran as may be required. All information required will be furnished on application to this office. Envelopes containing proposals should be marked "Proposals for Forage, etc.," and addressed to GEORGE H. WEEKS, Deputy Quartermaster General, U. S. A. do-4t

## Plumbing, Gas Fitting.

## CHARLES LOCKHEAD, PRACTICAL PLUMBER

## AND GAS FITTER.

Lead Burning a Specialty.

ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO. PERSONAL SUPERVISION GIVEN TO ALL WORK.

WORK WARRANTED TO GIVE SATISFACTION.

No. 3027 M STREET.

GEORGETOWN, D. C.

## M. COLE,

REGISTERED PLUMBER,

## GAS AND STEAM FITTER.

Job Work a Specialty.

429 EIGHTH STREET SOUTHEAST.

All Orders left at 615 Seventh street northwest will receive prompt attention.

## G. F. McAVOY,

REGISTERED

## PLUMBER, GAS AND STEAM FITTER.

No. 706 Fourteenth Street, between G Street and New York Avenue.

## SANITARY PLUMBING

A SPECIALTY.

## DEFECTIVE PLUMBING ALTERED

On Perfect Sanitary Principles.

## The Henry McShane

MANUFACTURING CO.,

## C. J. McCUBBIN,

MANAGER,

NO. 423 TENTH STREET NORTHWEST, WASHINGTON, D. C.

## J. R. QUINTER,

## PRACTICAL PLUMBER

AND

## GAS FITTER,

1414 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE.

## THE EBBITT.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

## Army and Navy Headquarters.

Eight Iron Fire Escapes.

BURCH & GIBBS.....Managers

## Leather Gifts for the Holidays!

Pocketbooks, Bill Books, Card Cases, Letter Cases, Purses, Writing Tablets, Collar Boxes, Cuff Boxes, Toilet Sets, Cigarette and Cigar Cases, Trunks,

The finest and largest stock of Leather Goods to be found in the city. Mounted in Silver and oxidized. Strictly all Leather Goods.

Dressing Cases, Match Cases, Stamp Cases, Music Rolls, Brush Sets, Gents Hat Boxes, Dress Suit Cases, Drinking Cups, Bags and Satchels, Toy Trunks, Furnished Satchels, Whips,

—AT—

## KNEESSI'S,

425 SEVENTH STREET N. W.

Philadelphia, 1783.

ESTABLISHED

Baltimore, 1879



Chronic Headaches are often caused by defective Eye-Sight. Properly adjusted Spectacles frequently give permanent relief. Perfect satisfaction given, or money refunded.

## F. W. McALLISTER,

OPTICIAN,

1311 F ST. N. W.,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Branch of No. 3 N. Charles St., Baltimore, Md.

## FOR SALE.

## NEW FRAME HOUSE,

Only four miles out on the Baltimore and Ohio Road, three minutes' walk from depot, beautifully located on high ground, front and back verandas, 7 rooms, bath, and concrete cellar.

PRICE, \$4,100.

Small cash payment, balance monthly. Also several desirably-located lots in Wilen Heights, Hyattsville, and Kensington Park, on easy monthly payments.

## EASTERDAY &amp; MALLERY,

Pacific Building, 624 F Street Northwest.

## McELROY'S ART STORE,

1003 PENNA. AVENUE.

## ETCHINGS, ENGRAVINGS, WATER COLORS, PHOTO

GRAPHS, and PHOTOGRAVURES.

## ART NOVELTIES.

PICTURE FRAMES in Gold, White and Gold, Silver, Ivory, and in all kinds of Hard Wood.

REGILDING OLD FRAMES A SPECIALTY. PAINTINGS CLEANED, RESTORED, AND VARNISHED. PICTURES HUNG, BOXED, AND SHIPPED AT SHORT NOTICE.

## SPEKSLIKE.

Cures Catarrh, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Headache, Sprains, Burns, Bruises, La Grippe, Sore Throat, and all affections of the Nervous System. A Powerful Nerve without opium. GRANDFATHER'S REMEDIES COMPANY, Washington, D. C. All Druggists.